2012

User Guide for the Trans Labrador Highway Routes 500/510

Driving Safely

Points of Interest

Food

Fuel

Accommodations

For more information about visitor services in Labrador

Visit : www.tourismlabrador.com

Yes, you can drive across Labrador on the great circle route!

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This guide has been developed by the

Central Labrador Economic Development Board

With kind assistance from:

Southeastern Aurora Development Board, Labrador Straits Development Board, HYRON Development Board, and the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, Newfoundland.

Central Labrador Economic Development Board

www.cledb.ca

The Ultimate Road Trip

We always ask visitors why they chose to visit Labrador via the Trans Labrador Highway. The answer most often is "For the adventure of driving through one of the last frontiers in North America. It is on our bucket list as the ultimate road trip ."

We'll be honest. In many places the Trans Labrador Highway (TLH) is a rugged road, mainly gravel, with limited services. Construction and paving is ongoing so be prepared to stop, and please drive carefully!

The scenery is spectacular but Route 500/510 can be a long lonely drive. It runs for 1185km's from Labrador City (52°57N 66°55W) across a vast wilderness and ends at L'Anse Au Clair (51°27'49N 57°4'2"W).

Of course, in order to reach the TLH, you must cross the Quebec border into Labrador. You can travel in two different directions; by either starting at Baie Comeau, Quebec, and driving Quebec Route 389 north, or by crossing from the Island of Newfoundland over the Strait of Belle Isle by ferry into Blanc Sablon, Quebec, and driving east along the Atlantic seaboard.

Which ever route you choose, the Trans Labrador Highway will take you to the farthest northeast point on a road that connects across Canada.

Traveling this rugged road involves real risks and challenges. This publication will help you to prepare for the journey so you can really enjoy your experience.

Please read this information carefully.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

There is NO cell service along the TLH. BUT you can BORROW an emergency satellite phone for safety purposes.

The only major medical facilities on the route are in Baie Comeau, Labrador City and Goose Bay, each separated by up to 500 miles/800 km. There are small clinics /nursing stations in every community. If you need assistance.

You can visit Torngat Mountain National Park, but there is no road access.

For emergency information, see the back page.

Driving west, about 80 kilometers from Goose Bay, you can still see the original dirt road heading straight up Pope's Hill, and the new highway winding around in a more gradual climb. This section of the highway was paved in 2011.

Hank's Dream

Hank Shouse has been called the "Father of the Trans Labrador Highway". He served for many years as a councillor and then mayor of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. He was a visionary and it was his dream to see a road connection across Labrador. He was a tireless advocate of that highway and much of the construction of the TLH, including paving which is still underway, occurred after his retirement from politics.

Hank died a few months before the road between central Labrador and the south coast was finally connected in December 2009. He was 86 years old.

Rules of the Road

Big trucks always have the right of way.

Always drive with your lights on so others can see you.

Keep your headlights and taillights clean so they are visible.

Stay on the right side of the road.

NEVER stop on bridges, hills, or curves.

Check your rear-view mirror regularly.

If you spot wildlife, pull over to a safe location before stopping.

Slow down when a vehicle passes you in either direction to reduce the chances of a rock hitting your windshield.

Slow down when passing other vehicles (especially motorcyclists and bicyclists) to lessen the chances of striking them with mud and flying rocks.

Preparing for the Long Haul

Before you leave
• Inspect all tires and make sure they are properly inflated
• Check all vehicle fluids
• Replace worn hoses and belts
• Empty your RV's holding tank and fill the water tank
Purchase groceries and supplies

Bring for your vehicle
• At least two full-sized spare tires mounted on rims
• Tire jack and tools for flat tires
• Emergency flares
• Extra gasoline, motor oil, and wiper fluid
Small Snow shovel (just in case)

Bring for yourself
• Insect repellent and head net
• Sunglasses and sunscreen
• Rain jacket and pants
• Warm clothes, including hat and gloves
• First aid kit
• Drinking water
• Ready-to-eat food
• Camping gear, including sleeping bag
• Personal medications
• Toilet paper and hand sanitizer
• Garbage bags

Safety Tips

Communications
There is no cell service along the highway. We recommend you take advantage of the satellite phone loan program described on page 8.

Clothing
Bring a variety including warm sweaters and coats, good raingear, hats, gloves, and long underwear even when driving in the summer. Wool and synthetic fabrics, such as fleece, are best. You may also want to bring swim wear and comfortable summer clothing.

Water and Food
Rest stops are few and far between. It's best to bring water and snacks with you. Please carry your garbage until the next community and place in a secure refuse container.

There are few restrooms along this wilderness highway.

Weather
Summer temperatures can occasionally reach the high 80s F (27-30°C) In general, June and July are drier months, but rainy days occur throughout the summer.
Winter weather can change quickly with large accumulations of snow, and dangerous icy conditions on the road. Slow down when you encounter snow-clearing equipment. Check for weather updates http://www.roads.gov.nl.ca/winterdriving/default.stm#Labrador

Wildlife
Treat all wild animals with caution. Keep a clean camp so you don't attract wildlife.

NEVER approach or feed any animals.

Moose may appear tame, but can be dangerous if approached too closely. Never get between a cow and her calves. If moose feel threatened they will flatten their ears, raise the hair on their neck, and may charge. http://www.roads.gov.nl.ca/department/moose.html

Caribou often cross the road in large numbers during their winter migration. Be prepared to stop and wait.

Wolves and foxes may carry rabies.

Black bears are dangerous—they have become accustomed to people and cars and can be unpredictable.

Be sure to gas up

on Route 389 at Manic 5 and Relais Gabrielle,
on Route 500 in Labrador City, Churchill Falls, and Goose Bay,
on Route 510 in Port Hope Simpson.

There are rest stops, accommodations, and food at these locations also.

Be sure to pack water, toilet paper and BUG SPRAY for the drive!

Visitor Information Centers

Labrador City
Gateway Labrador
Route 500
709-944 -5399
gatewaylab@crrstv.net

Happy Valley-Goose Bay
Tourist Chalet
365 Hamilton River Road
709-896-3489
llmta@tourismllabrador.com
www.tourismlabrador.com

L'Anse Au Clair
Gateway to Labrador Centre
40 Main Street
709-931-2013
Toll Free (877) 931 2013
LSHDC@labradorstraits.net
www.labradorcoastaldrive.com

Services Are Limited

Notice: There are no restrooms along the highway except in towns.
Medical Facilities: Hospitals are only in Goose Bay and Labrador City. Small medical clinics in each community are staffed by a nurse.
Banking: Banks are only located in a few communities but there are ATMs along the route. Most businesses accept major credit cards and traveler's checks.
Groceries: Grocery stores are in Goose Bay and Labrador City. Convenience and grocery in smaller communities.

Helpful Hints Strait of Belle Isle Ferry

Although this is a Newfoundland & Labrador service, it actually operates through Blanc Sablon in Quebec to St. Barbe Newfoundland.

Always make a reservation.
http://www.labradormarine.com/

Even with a reservation, you must be inside the ferry terminal and in the line up for a ticket NO LESS than one hour before your crossing, or you may be waitlisted.

Be aware that there is limited capacity on the ferry and sometimes vehicles may be left behind on the final run of the day. If there are several vehicles left, a request can be made to the Department of Transportation & Works to have the Apollo do an additional run. It is about a 2 hour crossing, but high winds can delay or cancel sailings.

In February through April, the ferry runs between Blanc Sablon and Corner Brook for a 12 hour sailing. More Info at http://www.labradorferry.ca/

Driving the TLH

Road Conditions

The road is narrow, has soft shoulders, high embankments, and steep hills. There are lengthy stretches of gravel surface with sharp rocks, potholes, washboard, and, depending on the weather, clouds of dust or slick mud. Watch out for dangerous curves and loose gravel, and please slow down in construction areas.

For current road conditions:

Please call 1-709-896-7888

Long distance charges may apply

Time Zones: Most of Labrador is in the Atlantic Time Zone which is Greenwich Mean Time GMT-4 hours.

Daylight Savings is observed between the months of April and October (GMT -3 hours.) However, driving south on Route 510 the time zone changes to Newfoundland time, at Black Tickle - 1/2 hour later.

When you reach Quebec, the time zone is then 1 hour earlier.

And then when you cross on the ferry you must adjust your watches by 1 1/2 hours later again……Confusing hey!

Climate: Labrador climate is changing, but it tends to be cool with average July temperatures between 10 and 20 degrees Celsius and January about minus -18 degrees Celsius. It can be as cold as minus -50 degrees Celsius in Western Labrador. The annual snowfall is around three to five metres.

Take only photos
Leave only footprints

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

CONSTRUCTION ZONES

http://www.roads.gov.nl.ca/construction/default.stm#Labrador

The Trans Labrador Highway is mainly a **gravel road**, with paving and **maintenance underway** daily, so please drive carefully. **Slow down** when you see large vehicles or transport trucks approaching as gravel may spray and crack a windshield. Please ensure you have emergency supplies and a **spare tire** on board as the gravel can be sharp. We recommend heavier vehicles and 10 ply tires for travel on the Trans Labrador highway, but motorcycles and small cars have made the trip safely!

Because Labrador West is a mining region, occasionally traffic on the highway is stopped in that area during rock blasting. Although this may be an inconvenience, it is necessary for your safety. Please be patient!

The only region of Labrador not yet connected by road is the north coast of Labrador. There are also a few isolated communities that do not have road connections on the south coast and to Mud Lake in central Labrador.

Road Tips

Soft Shoulders

Be aware that shoulders along the gravel road are narrow and soft, and often eroded by the weather. There are few pullover areas along the route that you may use to stop safely out of traffic.

Break Downs

If your car breaks down, get off the road as far as possible and set flares. If you need assistance, ask a passing motorist to contact the nearest service station for towing service.

Satellite Phones for Safety

Since there is no cellular service along the highway, the government has created a safety program so you can borrow a satellite phone for your road trip. This service is FREE. Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador must provide their driver's license, while others must provide a credit card number for replacement if the units are not returned. Satellite phones are programmed to dial directly to the police and are for emergency use only.

Pick up Points are:

Wabush - Wabush Hotel
Churchill Falls - Midway Travel Inn
Happy Valley-Goose Bay - Hotel North Two
Happy Valley-Goose Bay - Royal Inn & Suites
Port Hope Simpson - Alexis Hotel
Charlottetown - Town Office
Mary's Harbour - Riverlodge Hotel
L'Anse au Clair - Northern Light Inn

Emergency

If you have an emergency, pull over to the side of the road and use your satellite phone to call for help, or watch for other vehicles passing in either direction. Most drivers will stop to help you any way they can. Heavy equipment operators, that are grading or plowing the road, have radios in their vehicles and may be able to assist.

Rental Cars

Many rental car agreements prohibit driving on the Trans Labrador Highway and other gravel roads. Violating the rental car agreement can be very expensive, especially in the event of a malfunction or accident. Eagle River Rentals, and Budget Rentals have vehicles designated for this purpose. Alamo Rentals (Halifax) provides service.

Repairs

Service your vehicle before you leave and prepare to be self-sufficient. Tires, windshields and other repairs and maintenance are available in Labrador City and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Limited repair services are available at smaller coastal communities. Because of the long distance, towing is extremely expensive. (See page 9)

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take to make the trip?

Much depends on weather, road conditions, road construction, and your own interests. We estimate 8 hours from Baie Comeau to Labrador City, 6 hours then to Goose Bay and 8 hours to Blanc Sablon.

http://www.stats.gov.nl.ca/DataTools/RoadDB/Distance/

Factor in an additional 1-2 hours per day for rest stops, wildlife viewing, construction delays, and bad weather.

Can I drive, walk or cycle to the Atlantic Ocean?

YES! Route 510 is call "Labrador Coastal Drive" with several turn offs to communities located on the ocean shore. Route 510 will eventually lead you to the scenic drive along the Strait of Belle Isle separating Labrador from the Island portion of Newfoundland and weaving its way through the several communities.

http://www.labradorcoastaldrive.com/home/

Are the bugs really that bad?

YES! Hordes of mosquitoes emerge in mid-June and last into August. Biting black flies last into September. Insects are worst on calm days and in low, wetland areas. Hike and camp on ridges or wide gravel bars along rivers where a breeze may provide relief. Insect repellents containing DEET are most effective. A head net and bug jacket are essential if you plan on any outdoor activities.

Does the highway close in the winter?

NO! The road remains open year-round. Winter driving conditions are challenging, so always check for a current road report before attempting to drive between September and May.

http://www.roads.gov.nl.ca/winterdriving/default.stm

What's the earliest or latest date I can visit?

Although the highway is maintained year-round, visitor services are reduced between September and May. Prepare for extreme weather in any season.

http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/canada_e.html

More and more often, we see bicyclists and motorcyclists pursuing and adventure on the Trans Labrador Highway.

Services available along Routes 389, 500 and 510

Services	Gasoline	Diesel	Tire/Vehicle Repair	Restaurant	Hotel	B&B	Public Phone	Post Office	Shower	Water	Laundry	Dump Station	Tent Camping	RV Parking	Gift Shop/Local Crafts	Museum	Visitor Centre
Route 389 Quebec																	
Baie Comeau	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Manic 5	X	X		X	X		X		X	X							
Realais Gabrielle	X	X		X	X												
Route 500 Labrador																	
Labrador City / Wabush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Churchill Falls	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X		
Happy Valley-Goose Bay	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
North West River	X	X		X*				X							X	X	
Route 510 Labrador																	
Cartwright	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X					X		
Port Hope Simpson	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		X			X		
Charlottetown	X			X	X			X	X	X					X		
St. Lewis	X			X	X		X	X	X	X					X		
Mary's Harbour	X			X	X		X	X	X	X					X		X
Lodge Bay	X			X											X		
Red Bay	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Pinware	X																
West St. Modeste				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
L'Anse-au-Loup	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X							
L'Anse-Amour					X	X									X		
Forteau	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X		
L'Anse-au-Clair	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X

* closed in winter

‘MUST SEES’ along the way

Route 500

Bowdoin Canyon– just outside of Churchill Falls - there is a rugged walking path to this fabulous vista.

Churchill Falls— Guided tours of the underground power plant are available.

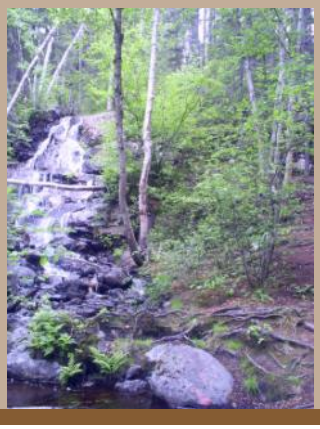
About 100 kilometers from Goose Bay, the forest landscape changes suddenly to caribou moss and soft leafed Juniper trees, the only coniferous tree that looses its needles. This is a traditional spiritual meeting place of the Innu First Nations called the Mukashan grounds.

Mud Lake is a historic village with about 60 permanent residents. It is accessible only by boat, snowmobile or aircraft . It has been called the “Venice” of Labrador.

Route 520

North West River, just a 30 minute drive from Goose Bay, is home to the Labrador Interpretation Centre, with revolving exhibitions and artifacts and depictions of the Innu, Inuit, Metis and Settler populations in Labrador. There is the Heritage Society Community Museum in the former Hudsons Bay Trading Post, a craft shop, a water front park, and a mile long sandy beach great for swimming. Sunday Hill offers the best photo opportunity in central Labrador with a 360 degree view of the Mealy Mountains and foot hills, Mokami Mountain, Lake Melville, Grand Lake and the interior of Labrador.

Simeon Falls is located on Route 520 about 15 km outside of Goose Bay. There is a small carved sign indicating ‘Waterfall’ and a crooked footpath leading to this enchanting site.



Route 510

Wonderstrands, accessible from the community of Cartwright is considered to be another Viking settlement area. Aboriginal artifacts have been discovered there.

Moulder of Dreams Pottery Shop in Port Hope Simpson where artist create fire glazed pottery with the essence of Labrador handcrafted in every piece.

The **Loder's Point Premises** in St. Lewis is a restored fishing stage and merchant store where you will learn about the fascinating history of St. Lewis.

Battle Harbour National Historic District Once known as the capital of Labrador, Battle Harbour's fascinating fishing history has also been coloured by medical pioneer, Sir Wilfred Grenfell and arctic explorer Commandeer Robert Peary. Beautifully refurbished residences are used as visitor accommodations. Interpretative centers, guided tours, boat charters, and an abundance of natural beauty brings 200 years of history to life on this tiny island! Departures from Mary's Harbour and the island daily.

http://www.newfoundlandlabrador.com/
http://www.labradorcoastaldrive.com/home/

The **Red Bay National Historic Site Orientation Centre** introduces you to a 16th century Basque Whaling site, the world's first industrial-scale whale fishery. The **Visitor Centre** showcases actual artifacts including actual Basque clothing, eating and drinking utensils. From here, you can also arrange a short boat tour to **Saddle Island**, for a walking tour of the excavation sites of the main processing area and burial ground.

Point Amour Lighthouse Provincial Historic Site is Atlantic Canada's tallest Lighthouse.

Labrador Straits Museum, with exhibits on women in Labrador

This is Bear Country!

Black Bears are common in Labrador in the summer time. You may encounter back bears anywhere along the Trans Labrador Highway. All bears are potentially dangerous.

It is illegal to feed wildlife or leave food where they can get it. Food-conditioned bears become a threat to people and frequently must be destroyed.

These tips provide minimum guidelines. Learn as much as you can about being safe around bears!

Avoid Encounters

LOOK AND LISTEN: Bears are active both day and night and may appear anywhere. Fresh tracks and droppings indicate that bears may be close.

DON'T SURPRISE: A startled bear may attack.

MAKE NOISE: Let bears know you're in the area—sing, yell, or clap your hands loudly. Be especially careful in thick brush or near noisy streams.

NEVER APPROACH: Stay at least 1/4 mile (400 m) from any bear. Sows may attack to defend their cubs.

KEEP A CLEAN CAMP: Store food, scented items, and trash in airtight containers away from your tent.

If You Encounter a Bear

DO NOT RUN!
Running may elicit a chase response.

Remain calm. If the bear does not see you, backtrack or detour quickly and quietly. Give the bear plenty of room. If the bear sees you, back away slowly. Speak in a low, calm voice while waving your arms slowly above your head.

Avoid eye contact with the bear.

Anyone sighting black bears frequenting the highway is asked to please contact the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement offices listed below:

Labrador Region – 709-282-3433

The **Northern Lights** are a spectacular site anywhere in Labrador. They are most visible in the cold winter night skies. Legend says that if you whistle they will come down towards you and clicking your fingers will scare them away.

Walking Trails

Labrador West offers several marked walking trails including the Meniheck Nordic Ski Club trail network.

Goose Bay area
Walking trails weave around town. The paved **Bike Path** starts at Kelland and Hamilton and ends at Tim Horton's. A new scenic groomed trail has been developed along **Mud Lake Road**. **Birch Island** trail is a favourite of bird watchers.
Birch Brook Nordic Ski Club has well maintained wilderness hiking trails as well as remote cabins for rent.
Tranquility trail in North West River has woodland and lake vantage points.

Southern Labrador
White Water Falls trail is a short hike up along St. Mary's River.
Deepwater Creek Trail at St. Lewis

Labrador Straits
The **Jersey Room Hiking Trail** is a great walk, as well, with interpretation on a an 18th century fishing enterprises.
Overall Fall Brook, **Schooner Cove**, **HMS Raleigh**, **Battery Oceanview Trail** (at West St. Modeste) **Tracey Hill** and the **Boney Shore** (both at Red Bay)

Fishing

Labrador is renowned for world class sport fishing camps. To preserve fish stocks, many outfitters now practice 'catch and release' . As a traveler along the new highway you will pass some great fishing spots. There are a few rules that you should know about.

This is a general summary of regulations from the ANGLERS GUIDE provided by Fisheries & Oceans Canada.
http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/wildlife/angling/index.html for more detailed info.

A non-resident angler's license is required. You can purchase it at a Government Service Centre or at some retail outlets.

A non-resident shall not fish inland waters without engaging the services of an outfitter.

There are a few exceptions.
A licensed non-resident may fish non-scheduled waters within 800 meters (1/2 mile) of a Provincial Highway.

Esker Road and other private roads are not Provincial Highways.

A licensed non-resident may fish without an outfitter or licensed guide if accompanied by a direct relative who is a resident.

A non-resident, who is a paying guest of a commercial tourist establishment (Licensed), may angle for fish in inland waters provided that he/she returns to that tourist establishment each night, utilizes the services of a licensed guide, and does not fish with 2km of another Outfitter's facility.

A non-resident who is the guest of a resident at a cottage in Labrador may angle provided he or she fished in water adjacent to that cottage, is accompanied by a licensed guide and a fee is not charged for guiding, accommodation or meals at the cottage.

SCHEDULED RIVERS

Along Route 510 and Community Access Roads

Eagle River Sand Hill River & tributary streams
Reid's Pond River & Reid's Pond Hawke River
Gilbert River Shinney's River St. Mary's River
St. Charles River & tributaries St. Lewis River & tributaries Port Marnham Brook & tributaries
Alexis River & tributaries Black Bear River & tributaries Paradise River & tributaries
White Bear River & tributaries
Dykes River & tributaries North River & tributaries
Forteau River, including First Lake,
Second Lake & Third Lake L'anse au Loup Brook
Pinware River & tributaries
Trout River & Country Cat River

BAG LIMITS

TROUT—Includes Speckled Trout and Ouananiche (land lacked salmon) - 12 Trout or 5 lbs round weight (2.27kg) + 1 fish
LAKE TROUT—3 fish possession limit
NORTHER PIKE & ARCTIC CHAR - 2 per day max of 4
WHITEFISH —no limit
Family license is considered individual fish limit. Possession limit is twice the daily limit, except for in the case of Lake Tout ,where the daily limit of the fish is equal to the possession limit.

Points to Remember

-A salmon angling license is needed in scheduled salmon waters.
-License holder must carry their license on person during fishing trips.
-A family license may be issued to a parent or guardian of a family and may include children up to and including 17 years of age
-Persons aged 17 years or under who are fishing on a family license must be accompanied and supervised by the parent or guardian named in the license carried on his/her person.
-No sport fishing by angling may be retained alive.
-Trout taken may not be beheaded, filleted, canned or otherwise dealt with so as to make it impossible to readily determine the species and number of the fish
-Any angler may only fish with one rod at a time.
-A total of 3 single hooks or one tri-hook on a lure or line is the maximum per rod.

Photo Credit: Flowers River Lodge

Definitions

Provincial Highway—a public highway maintained by Dept of Transportation & Works, designated by a route number

Direct relative—father, mother, brother, sister, or in-law of above

Cottage—cabin/cottage which is not a primary residence which is owned and registered by the resident

Adjacent—in case of lake or pond, the lake or pond on which the cottage is located. In case of river or stream, within 800 meters upstream or downstream of the cottage

DISCLAIMER—Please Contact the Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada for full details.

Now Lets Talk About WINTER

Winter Driving and Road Closures

http://www.roads.gov.nl.ca/winterdriving/default.stm#Labrador

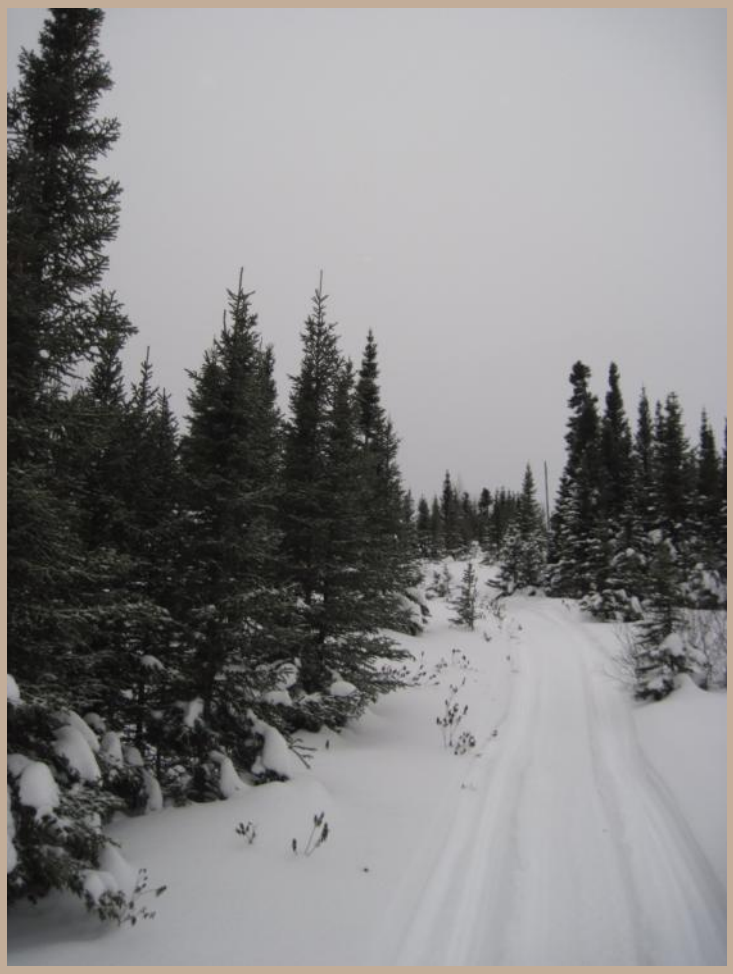
Wildlife - 709-282-3433

Temperatures and Snowfall

http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/canada_e.html

Gates on Route 510

www.roads.gov.nl.ca/winterdriving



Winter Driving and Vehicle Maintenance

Your vehicle should be serviced, ensure your wiper blades are in good condition, top up your window washer fluid, and change the oil in your car to one that works better in cold weather. Studded snow tires are recommended for the months of October to May. These tires have metal studs that help your vehicle grip the road and avoid slipping and sliding. All weather tires do not have the same safety rating as snow tires. Driving slower in winter conditions will help you to avoid accidents.

The same “Rules of the Road” apply in the winter months. Snow clearing equipment **always** has the right of way and be cautious of black ice, chunks of ice and snow and there may also be rocks. If you are planning to drive for a long distance in the winter, you should keep safety equipment in your vehicle including a small shovel, a blanket, some candles and matches, flares, extra windshield washer fluid, a spare tire, dry snacks and water.

Check the road conditions and weather forecast before you leave. Cavalcade if possible. Since there is no cellular service along the highway, the government has created a safety program so you can borrow a satellite phone for your road trip. This service is FREE. Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador must provide their driver’s license, while others must provide a credit card number for replacement if the units are not returned. Satellite phones are programmed to dial directly to the police and are for emergency use only.

Pick up Points are:

Wabush - Wabush Hotel
Churchill Falls - Midway Travel Inn
Happy Valley-Goose Bay - Hotel North Two
Happy Valley-Goose Bay - Royal Inn / Suites
Port Hope Simpson - Alexis Hotel
Charlottetown - Town Office
Mary's Harbour - Riverlodge Hotel
L'Anse au Clair - Northern Light Inn

Your vehicle should have a ‘block heater’ in the engine that will help prevent the battery from draining and the engine fluids from freezing. A small electrical plug will be visible in the front grill. Using an extension cord, ‘plug in’ your block heater when your car is parked for long periods (overnight). Don’t forget to unplug before you turn on the engine and drive away! When it is extremely cold, it is a good habit to let the car engine warm up for 3-5 minutes, letting it idle before driving. Block heaters can be purchased and installed in Labrador City and Goose Bay, if your vehicle doesn’t have one already.

Be careful where you park your vehicle. Many buildings have slanted roofs, and snow or ice can build up and then fall on vehicles parked below. No parking on the streets in towns is permitted in the winter because the cars get in the way of snow clearing equipment.

Road Closures
When conditions are unsafe because of heavy snow or wind, sometimes sections of the Trans Labrador Highway (Route 500/510) are closed. CBC radio will announce any road closures and you can visit www.roads.gov.nl.ca/winterdriving for updates. Always check weather and road conditions before you leave.

Wildlife
Many species of wildlife are seen in the winter months. Moose may appear tame, but can be dangerous if approached too closely. Never get between a cow and her calves. If moose feel threatened they will flatten their ears, raise the hair on their neck, and may charge.

Caribou often cross the road in large numbers during their winter migration. Be prepared to stop and wait.

Wolves and foxes will have their winter (white) coats so they may be difficult to see in the snow. They may also carry rabies.

Rabbits and partridges will also have their winter (white) coats so they may be difficult to see as well.

Temperatures
Although the temperature may not seem to be *too* cold, the wind will make the temperature significantly lower. This is called Wind Chill, and some refer to it as “feels like”. Always wear a fitted hat (also called a toque), mittens, scarf and warm coat when walking. Stay with your vehicle and **DO NOT WALK** in temperatures below minus 20 because you can experience frost bite. This means that your exposed skin will quickly burn and may become discolored. Frostbite is a very dangerous injury.

Snowfall
Snowfall can accumulate quite quickly in Labrador. Always travel with winter or studded tires and carry a shovel and spare dry gloves/mittens, hats, scarves and socks. Always check the weather before you leave and reduce your speed if it begins to snow during your travels. The snow can be quite bright at times and may cause snow blindness; wear sunglasses to prevent this. Sometimes the shoulder of the road is difficult to see because of the snow so wearing sunglasses will help you to see it better.

Gates on Route 510
There are several gates along the highway (route 510). If you come across a gate that is closed you will have to turn around and return where you came from; this could mean having to drive for a number of hours. The gates are sometimes closed to prevent drivers from continuing on a road which is closed due to weather conditions. **Always** check for road closures before you leave.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Road Conditions
Dept. of Transportation & Works
1-709-896-7888
www.roads.gov.nl.ca

Hunting and Fishing
Dept. of Environment and Conservation
Wildlife Division
1-709-637-2006
www.env.gov.nl.ca

Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture
1-709-896-3412
www.fishaq.gov.nl.ca

Emergency Numbers

There is NO cell phone service on the highway. In case of an emergency, use your satellite phone which is programmed directly to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

To report wildfires and hunting or fishing violation
Use your satellite phone to contact the RCMP and/or report it to the RCMP in the next community.

***THERE IS NO 911 SERVICE IN LABRADOR.**

Drive Safely and Enjoy the Beautiful Scenery